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NARCOTIC DRUGS

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989

1. In accordance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, 1/ the International Narcotics Control Board is required to prepare an annual report on its work and such additional reports as it considers necessary. 2/ An analogous obligation is set forth in the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. 3/ The reports must be submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In each year's annual report, the Board provides a comprehensive survey of the current drug control situation in the world, 4/ and recommends action that it considers appropriate.

2. In its report for 1989, the Board points out that the deterioration in the world situation in respect of the illicit production and abuse of drugs, together with the attendant escalating violence, has reached a new and dangerous stage. Despite the unprecedented counteraction taken by the world community, an interlocking network of criminal drug trafficking organizations, heavily financed and armed, has become ever bolder and more ruthless. The danger of undermining and paralysing the political institutions and economies of some countries has never been greater. The peril in some countries to the very lives of political leaders, jurists, journalists and private citizens has also never been greater. The traffickers' declaration of war against a single country endangers the security and integrity of all countries and constitutes war against the whole international community. The response of the international community must be concerted, swift, more forceful, more comprehensive, more innovative. For the criminal trafficking organizations, linked within countries, within regions, interregionally, and often with terrorist insurgents, to prevail in the struggle in any one country would imperil all countries. The war to defeat them must be waged globally.

3. The Board stresses that, accordingly, the international community should, in its own interest, provide promptly, and to the greatest extent possible, the assistance requested by any Government under siege by the traffickers. Such

requests for assistance may well range from means to protect officials, judges and witnesses to the provision of aircraft, weapons and training to bolster security forces.

4. Traffickers are motivated by voracious financial greed which can be satisfied only by ever-growing illicit drug consumption which now occurs in virtually all countries, both developed and developing. All countries, particularly those in which such consumption is widespread, bear a special responsibility for enacting and vigorously pursuing comprehensive measures to contain and reduce demand. It should also be recognized that every individual who consumes illicit drugs bears a personal responsibility for contributing to the perpetuation of the illicit activities of drug traffickers.

5. In the report, the Board states that countries in which illicit narcotics cultivation takes place and has long been entrenched should be provided access to modern reconnaissance technology to permit location and destruction of such cultivation. At the same time development assistance is required to enable farmers to make their living through licit agricultural or other enterprises. Marketing possibilities and fair export prices, together with general economic development, must go hand-in-hand with such an approach if it is to succeed. On their side, the producing countries should pursue sustained and comprehensive programmes designed progressively to reduce and eventually to eliminate such cultivation. The Board believes that it is of utmost importance that illicit cultivation not be permitted to expand further, as has occurred in recent years when licit traditional crops have been increasingly replaced by illicit ones. It is also essential that methods which permit large-scale eradication of illicit narcotic crops be further developed and employed.

6. Since 1988, illicit production of narcotic drugs has increased and more countries are now involved. In the latter connection, an ominous development is the spread of opium poppy cultivation to Guatemala and Colombia. In pursuing their criminal activities, drug traffickers have severely damaged the environment in a number of countries where illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the coca bush takes place. This damage includes not only the destruction of forests, with the consequent erosion of the soil through the use of slash-and-burn techniques, but also the contamination of rivers and streams by the disposal of chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of opiates and cocaine. The producer countries and the entire world community should have access to information which shows the dimensions of the problem. In this connection, the Board believes that it would be useful for a small group of environmental experts, under the auspices of the United Nations, to conduct a study of this problem and make recommenations as appropriate.

7. The Board considers the conclusion in December 1988 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 5/ to constitute a milestone. This Convention provides a valuable new tool to fight illicit drug trafficking. The Board urges all States to become Parties at the earliest possible time. The Board also urges that all States respond affirmatively to the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council that they provisionally apply the provisions of the Convention to the greatest extent possible even before formally becoming Parties. In this connection, special attention is required with

respect to levying appropriate penalties on traffickers, extradition, money laundering and seizure of assets. Furthermore, the early implementation of the provisions of article 12, concerning the control of precursors, can greatly enhance co-ordinated international action to reduce the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board is preparing to implement the role assigned to it under several provisions of the Convention.

8. The report notes that article 5 of the 1988 Convention specifies that Parties should adopt measures to enable their authorities to identify, trace and freeze or seize proceeds or property derived from or used in the illicit traffic. In this connection, the Board mentions that an intergovernmental meeting held in Paris in September 1989 brought together finance officials from 15 countries to examine how they could improve international co-operation against money laundering and interrupt the movement of the huge illicit proceeds generated by drug trafficking. A Financial Action Task Force will assess the flow of such illicit proceeds and draw up a strategy to combat it by the first half of 1990. In elaborating an approach to the problem, it will be necessary to recognize that a balance must be struck between some form of bank secrecy for licit commerce, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the need to share information on money transfers, if the struggle against drug trafficking is to be effective. The Board hopes that this effort will be successful and that consideration will be given to developing a mechanism to facilitate co-ordinated action in all regions.

9. With regard to drug abuse, the report stresses that within one generation, the abuse of drugs has expanded so quickly that virtually all countries and segments of society are menaced. Abuse is now prevalent everywhere - in the streets, in schools, in the work place, in sports arenas. The toll to society in the waste of lives, health costs, rising crime and lost productivity remains high.

10. Health hazards continue to be aggravated by the simultaneous consumption of more than one drug, frequently in combination with alcohol. Such perilous consumption patterns complicate detoxification and treatment. The Board reiterates the importance it attaches to sustained progress in containing and reducing the illicit demand for drugs, which it considers as central to any improvement in the overall drug trafficking situation. The reduction of illicit supply in one area can have significant but only temporary impact unless demand is also reduced, since the elimination of one source of supply will merely be offset by another. Accordingly, the Board welcomes the initiative taken by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to convene in London in April 1990 a World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat.

11. The association between intravenous drug abuse and AIDS is viewed with deep anxiety throughout the world. AIDS cases caused by such abuse are becoming ever more numerous, mainly in certain metropolitan areas. The adoption of measures that may decrease the sharing of hypodermic needles among intravenous drug abusers is necessary to reduce the spread of AIDS. To this end, the Board, jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the context of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, is studying the legal aspects related to the controlled distribution of hypodermic needles and syringes. In this context, the Board in its report again stresses that any prophylactic measures which are urgently needed should neither promote nor facilitate drug abuse.

12. The perils of drug abuse which have now become even more lethal because of the prevalence of AIDS, make it imperative that drug abuse prevention and treatment programmes aimed at high-risk groups be given priority attention. Treatment modalities, especially for poly-drug and cocaine abuse, present a formidable challenge. The lack of effective detoxification and treatment modalities in the case of cocaine have prompted specialized studies in some countries. The Board once again reiterates that WHO should provide timely and sorely needed assistance to the international community by convening a panel of experts knowledgeable about the effects of poly-drug and cocaine abuse to advise on the most efficacious treatment modalities available.

13. The Board emphatically joins its voice with those of Governments which have rejected the view expressed by some individuals who advocate the legalization of the use of some or all drugs. Such an approach sends a signal in the wrong direction. It would undoubtedly be interpreted by potential drug abusers as sanctioning drug use and can be expected to lead to an explosion of abuse, accompanied by drug-related deaths, escalating health care costs, and destruction of families as well as of basic values which govern behaviour in society. Moreover, any slackening of the control effort is morally indefensible and tantamount to the surrender of the world community to the drug cartels.

14. Effective control of drugs required for medical and scientific use constitutes a basic element in the effort of the world community to prevent drug abuse. Generally speaking, the international control system elaborated in the 1961 Convention continues to operate satisfactorily. Diversion of narcotic drugs from the licit trade into illicit channels remains relatively rare and the quantities involved are small in comparison with the large volume of transactions. That holds true both for drugs in the international trade as well as in domestic wholesale circuits.

15. With regard to the control system for psychotropic substances set forth in the 1971 Convention, Parties and non-Parties alike apply satisfactorily the controls stipulated in the Convention for substances in Schedules I and II, as well as the special voluntary measures recommended by the Board to bolster those controls. In concerted action with Governments, the Board continues its efforts to prevent traffickers from diverting psychotropic substances from sources of licit manufacture and trade into illicit channels. Such co-operation continues to thwart the diversion of large quantities of methaqualone, fenetylline and secobarbital. In the case of fenetylline alone, approximately 280 million tablets, amount to 14 tonnes, have been prevented from falling into traffickers' hands since 1985. In the case of methaqualone, which was diverted in enormous quantities only a few years ago, the controls have now taken effect, and attempted diversion is now nearly always identified and prevented. However, such attempts continue to be made, particularly in those countries which are considered by traffickers to have insufficient controls. The international system is therefore working well for substances controlled under Schedule II. In the case of Schedule III and IV substances, however, effective control and monitoring of international trade still requires improved action by some manufacturing and exporting countries, on the one hand, and some importing countries on the other. The situation and the need for remedial action are dealt with in paragraphs 31-37 of the report.

READEX FICHE

16. On the question of demand for and supply of opiates for licit needs and, in particular, of excessive stocks of opiate raw materials, the Council requested the Board, in resolution 1988/10 of 25 May 1988, to review available information on the problem and to enter into a dialogue with interested Governments and parties in order to develop a practical and effective solution, which may include the involvement of international development assistance organizations. In response, the Board deemed it essential in the first instance to gather further detailed information on licit medical needs in order to identify both actual and potential opiate demand. It requested the assistance of WHO in determining such demand in various regions of the world. The Board is grateful for the co-operation extended by WHO. In resolution 1989/15 of 22 May 1989, the Council requested the Board to pursue the early finalization and implementation of the project. On the basis of the information collected, the Board has published a special study on the subject together with its recommendations in a supplement to its annual report. 6/

17. The report notes that inadequate financial resources have prevented the Board from carrying out fully its mandate under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and the 1972 Protocol. If additional resources were made available to the Board through the regular United Nations budget, or by extrabudgetary means, a number of steps to strengthen the control system for narcotic drugs and psychotopic substances could be taken.

18. The Conventions attach fundamental importance to the Board's monitoring functions and the need for continuing dialogue between Governments and the Board to ensure their implementation. The Board could unquestionably carry out additional and wide-ranging monitoring functions, together with follow-up activities to assist Governments in treaty implementation and to reinforce national controls if the Board's secretariat were provided additional staff resources. The Board's function of promoting greater compliance with the treaties would particularly benefit from such action.

Notes

1/ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515, p. 151), as amended by the 1976 Protocol (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 976, No. 14152, p. 106).

2/ Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XI.2). The report of the Board is supplemented by three detailed technical reports: "Narcotic drugs: estimated world requirements for 1990; statistics for 1988" (E/INCB/1989/2); "Statistics on psychotropic substances for 1988" (E/INCB/1989/3) and Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs (United Nations publication, Sales No. 89.XI.5).

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1019, No. 14956, p. 176.

4/ Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989 ..., paras. 51-180.

Notes (continued)

5/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.1 and 2.

6/ Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs ...

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Code of conduct on transnational corporations

Letter dated 25 January 1990 from the Chairman presiding at the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/24, the Bureau and enlarged Bureau of the reconvened special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations held consultations in New York from 23 to 25 January 1990 with regard to the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, contained in document E/1988/39/Add.1. During those consultations proposals were made to amend the text of the draft code of conduct. It was agreed that delegations would need time to consider those proposals.

The enlarged Bureau decided to hold further consultations and negotiations in New York from 2 to 6 April and from 22 to 24 May 1990 with the aim of concluding the work on the code of conduct.

The Bureau therefore requests that the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations be reconvened for a one-day meeting in New York on 24 May 1990 to receive and formalize the conclusions of the enlarged Bureau, in order to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council in time for its second regular session of 1990.

(Signed) Miguel MARIN-BOSCH
Chairman
Special session
Commission on Transnational Corporations

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CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989

SUMMARY

The present report, prepared by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, provides an overview of the activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery in 1989. The report contains a foreword by the Chairman of ACC, four sections dealing with the different aspects of the work of ACC and four annexes. An addendum to this report contains brief summaries of the activities in 1989 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of the ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices.

As the first section of the report indicates, in 1989 ACC gave priority consideration to four substantive issues. These issues concerned debt and development, the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, international drug abuse control and environment-related questions. Furthermore, ACC discussed and considered appropriate system-wide responses to a number of other issues confronting the international community, ranging from the prevention and control of AIDS to questions related to nutrition. In the past year, ACC has also been involved in assisting Member States to prepare for a number of major international conferences and deliberations to be held in 1990.

International economic co-operation and the revitalization of development received priority attention by ACC. The evolution of the debt situation continued to be a major concern. The social and human aspects of adjustment programmes were reviewed and discussed, as was the impact and the future of the current debt strategy. In that context a strengthened debt strategy and debt reduction now needs to be implemented with greater speed and should cover a larger number of countries.

The preparation and elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade was a major item on the ACC agenda during 1989. ACC transmitted to the Economic and Social Council its suggestions regarding the contents of the new strategy. ACC proposed an outline of the strategy, the main headings of which were (a) prospects and challenges; (b) development for people by people; (c) survival issues for the twenty-first century - sustainable development; (d) unblocking and integrating the world economy; and (e) joint and mutual interests in co-operation.

International drug abuse control emerged as a major international issue in 1989. ACC submitted a statement to the Economic and Social Council entitled "The need to accelerate the international fight against drug abuse", in which ACC expressed its grave concern at the immense and escalating menace of drug abuse. ACC agreed on the need to strengthen the mechanisms concerned with the co-ordination of drug abuse control activities and to galvanize the system's response, both individually and collectively, to formulate specific proposals to meet the new challenges. In 1989 work commenced on the system-wide plan of action for international drug abuse control, to be prepared by ACC in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/141.

The environment, particularly the question of environment and development, was another area of major international concern in 1989. ACC welcomed the increased emphasis on environmentally sound and sustainable development and recognized that climate change is a topic of increasing international awareness. Regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ACC believed that it should address the overall issues as set out in relevant General Assembly resolutions in such a manner as to lead to concrete measures. The Conference should lead to a strengthening of the capacities of developing countries, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, to carry out the consequent responsibilities and identify the requisite resources.

The formulation of policies and the management of operational activities for development is a major preoccupation of ACC and is described in the second section of the report. In 1989, ACC adopted a statement, for submission to the Economic and Social Council, on the role and functioning of the United Nations development system in the 1990s. The statement recognized that major changes had taken place on the development scene in recent years, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity to the United Nations development system in the 1990s and reaffirmed the unequivocal resolve of ACC to continue to adapt, both individually and collectively, to evolving circumstances and challenges. ACC recognized the importance of further strengthening the links between the operational activities of the system and the goals and strategies of the 1990s. ACC is actively pursuing efforts to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of the system's functioning.

The third section of the report deals with financial, administrative and personnel issues. Maintaining and strengthening the United Nations common system of personnel policies and practices, which includes most of the organizations of the system, is another important function of ACC. While the action taken by the General Assembly in resolution 44/198 is clearly a positive development, ACC is of the view that more must be done to improve the conditions of service so that an

international civil service of the highest quality, as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, is maintained.

During 1989, ACC continued to be concerned with the financial difficulties faced by the United Nations system. Noting that at the present time the United Nations system is the scene of renewed and revitalized interest on the part of Member States, ACC concluded that the plans, programmes and budgets developed to meet the priorities of Member States can be translated into effective action through the system only if they have solid financial support. ACC called upon Member States to pay promptly and in full their contributions to the organizations of the United Nations system.

As the foreword of the Chairman of ACC indicates, members of ACC are aware of the necessity of responding to the far-reaching changes taking place on the international scene and of meeting the heightened expectations of Member States regarding the role of the United Nations system.

ACC recognizes the need to further strengthen its co-operation to meet the challenges of the future and will discuss its role and methods of operations during 1990.

FOREWORD

The far-reaching changes taking place on the international scene are leading inexorably to greater integration and obliging Governments to adjust their outlooks and policies accordingly. Interdependence, of a much more fundamental and profound nature than could have been imagined until recently, is becoming a basis of international life. The world has become smaller and at the same time more complex and the time to react to events much shorter.

This naturally creates the expectation, indeed the demand, that the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system facilitate the process of global integration and ensure that it is carried out in a manner that promotes economic development with equity and justice. A historic opportunity is opening for the world community to consolidate a foundation upon which lasting peace and sustainable progress can be maintained. The United Nations system must employ effective methods and coherent strategies to achieve this all important objective. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination is committed to this end.

Over four decades ago, Member States decided to structure the system as a constellation of separate specialized agencies linked to the United Nations. Close and fruitful co-operation has been developed formally through ACC and other types of meetings and informally through a host of joint endeavours that have proved their value.

It is clear, however that there is a need for the organizations of the United Nations system to further strengthen their co-operation to meet the challenges of the future. Discussions last year in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and, more recently, in the General Assembly indicate that Member States have heightened expectations of the contributions that the organizations of the United Nations system, acting in a concerted manner, will be able to make to the identification and solution of global problems.

In recent years, the United Nations system has made considerable progress in developing coherent responses to transborder issues which encompass concerns in different spheres: social, economic and humanitarian. But this capacity needs to be enhanced and applied more widely. International global co-operation will be required if numerous critical problems currently besetting the world are to be solved successfully. The United Nations system must be able to address effectively the most pressing of these global problems through joint actions. This will require imagination in the design of programmes and determined efforts to avoid duplication.

ACC intends during 1990 to review its own functioning in order to consider changes that may be necessary to make it more effective. Steps have already been taken to reconvene the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and to assign to it, among other tasks, the responsibility for providing, in future ACC annual overview reports, information on the programmes and resources of organizations of the system.

More effective use needs to be made of the existing instruments of co-ordination. The quality of the exchange of information and views between intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies should be improved. The organizations of the system, through ACC, intend to develop their analytical capabilities to provide intergovernmental bodies with suggested solutions to critical problems in the economic and social fields. Co-ordination would certainly be facilitated if Member States would ensure the consistency of their positions in the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

This report is being presented in a new format, which seeks to respond to specific suggestions made by CPC and the General Assembly. An attempt is being made to present the activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery as clearly and concisely as possible. ACC intends to introduce further modifications in the format of the annual report in the future in the light of its continuing consideration of ways to respond better to the concerns of Member States, including those relating to the presentation of data on system-wide programmes and resources.

The relevance of the United Nations system directly relates to its capacity to deal with the challenges of the present and those that will arrive in the future. The system is fully committed to serving its Member States effectively and efficiently.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General of the
United Nations and Chairman
of the Administrative Committee
on Co-ordination

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List of abbreviations

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ACCIS	Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems
CCAQ (FB)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
CCAQ (PER)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
CCSQ (OPS)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DOEM	Designated Officials on Environmental Matters
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAWGD	Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JUNIC	Joint United Nations Information Committee
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SADCC	Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION IN 1989

A. Debt and development

1. During the past year the debt overhang continued to cripple growth in a large number of developing countries, especially in Latin America and Africa. Even though some debt service ratios improved, there was little certainty that the debt problem of developing countries could be overcome any time soon.

2. Investments have particularly suffered in the debtor countries, partly as a result of the paucity of new finance and large negative net transfers combined with high interest rates, low commodity prices and protectionism. The adjustment efforts of many developing countries have led to severe social and political strains. In some countries the adjustment efforts have paid off when combined with new finance and improved export opportunities.

3. Important new approaches to the debt situation were put forward during the year. Particularly notable were the proposals by the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Nicholas Brady, referring to commercial debt, as well as the decisions at the Toronto summit on the official bilateral debt of low-income countries. Since then, only a few commercial debt-reduction packages have been arranged. Within the Paris Club a number of countries have benefited from the decisions taken at the Toronto summit. Finally, several donor countries have announced the cancellation of the ODA debt.

4. Given the pervasive nature of the debt problem and its widespread consequences, ACC has discussed the debt issue in various contexts at both of its regular sessions. IMF and the World Bank submitted a paper on issues related to debt to ACC at its second regular session. The following main points were made during those discussions:

(a) Global aspects. The development prospects of two entire continents, Africa and Latin America, as well as of several countries in Asia, remain dismal, with economic growth barely exceeding population growth, not to speak of the risk to the growth of trade in general, particularly to the exports of a number of industrialized countries;

(b) International environment. It was stressed that there was a need to correct large international economic disequilibria in order to bring down real interest rates, which continue at historically high levels, and put an end to the drain of domestic resources for development;

(c) Adjustment programmes. It was emphasized that improvements in policy performance in the developing countries need to be sustained and it was recognized that the successful negotiation of new debt-reduction packages was tied to the implementation of adjustment programmes. The implications of adjustment programmes were discussed. Emphasis was put on the need to combine adjustment with substantial new flows of finance and terms and conditions which gave developing countries adequate time to adjust;

(d) Social cost. The social and human aspects of adjustment programmes were highlighted during the ACC discussions. Cutbacks in government expenditures had led to a reduction in social services, especially in health and education. The United Nations system must work in harmony to address the effects of adjustment programmes and to effectively develop programmes to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups. These measures, as was pointed out, should be part and parcel of the design of the adjustment programmes themselves;

(e) Multilateral financial institutions. There was a need to mobilize additional resources for these institutions so that adjustment programmes were sufficiently well financed. There should be some focus on conditions of multilateral finance;

(f) Future of the debt strategy. The strengthened debt strategy and debt reduction now needs to be implemented with greater speed and to cover a larger number of debtor countries. The role of certain Governments in promoting this strategy was emphasized, not only regarding financial resources, such as the increase in IMF and World Bank quotas and the ninth replenishment of IDA, but also regarding regulatory changes that would favour a resolution of the debt problem. In this respect, special action on debt service and debt reduction for low-income countries, particularly in Africa, was still needed.

B. Preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

5. The economic environment for development prevailing at the end of the 1980s differs considerably from that of previous decades. Growth in the per capita income of the world was much slower during the 1980s than in the two previous decades. On the aggregate, the developing countries have borne the brunt of the decline in growth, and consequently the income gap between developed and developing countries increased. Developing countries' performance has moved along a dual track. Some developing countries, notably in Asia, achieved vigorous and steady growth. But in most developing countries the 1980s were a lost decade for development. How to correct these unhealthy developments is a major challenge for the international development strategy for the 1990s. In a world of increased economic interdependence, the discussion of development goals must encompass the broader world economic environment in which such goals will be pursued.

6. The preparation and elaboration of the international development strategy continued in 1989 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/182.

7. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade held meetings in March (organizational session), June and September 1989. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/182, various United Nations bodies, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, made statements and submitted reports to the Committee. A preliminary list of inputs from United Nations secretariats and intergovernmental bodies relevant to the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development

decade (informal note by the Secretariat) was circulated during the June and September meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

8. ACC contributed to the preparation and elaboration of the new strategy through the work of its Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives (see E/1990/18/Add.1, paras. 2-5, for the summary of activities in 1989 of the Task Force). The Task Force held consultations on the preparation of the international development strategy during its first session of 1989, which took place at Geneva from 28 to 31 March. The report of the Task Force (ACC/1989/9) was considered by ACC at its first regular session of 1989. It was decided that the report of the Task Force should be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council (decision 1989/1). The annex to the report contains a proposed summary outline of the international development strategy.

9. The main headings of the outline are as follows:

(a) Prospects and challenges;

(b) Development for people by people;

(c) Survival issues for the twenty-first century - sustainable development;

(d) Unblocking and integrating the world economy;

(e) Joint and mutual interests in co-operation.

10. The Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives also discussed the international development strategy at its second session, held in New York from 18 to 20 September 1989. In this connection, the Task Force reviewed the ACC background paper on the international development strategy, which was later submitted to the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC held in October 1989. The ACC background paper made a number of suggestions on ways in which the strategy could be utilized to enhance co-ordination in the United Nations system.

11. The report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/4) contained a number of conclusions and recommendations regarding the preparation and implementation of the new strategy. It was recommended, for example, that ACC make a careful assessment of the experience gained in strengthening co-ordination within the United Nations system relating to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, with a view to identifying measures for enhanced co-ordination and co-operation within the United Nations system during the 1990s. Concrete suggestions and recommendations should be submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The new strategy was also seen as serving as a basis for providing guidance for the relevant sectoral goals and objectives of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. The executive heads of the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system were requested to bring to the attention of their respective governing bodies the relevant parts of the new strategy in order to adopt policies

and programmes that would facilitate the implementation of the strategy. Finally, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were asked to contribute effectively and in a well co-ordinated manner to the review and appraisal of the new international development strategy and to the monitoring of the goals and objectives included in the strategy.

12. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/169, recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee adopt the outline contained in the annex to that resolution as the basis for the elaboration of the international development strategy. The main headings of the outline are as follows:

I. PREAMBLE

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

III. POLICIES AND MEASURES

IV. ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

V. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

C. International drug abuse control

13. ACC considered drug abuse control at its first regular session of 1989. At the conclusion of the meeting, ACC issued a statement on the need to accelerate the international fight against drug abuse (E/1989/72, annex), which contained recommendations and conclusions related to drug abuse control. ACC called on States Members of the United Nations to "make the necessary financial provisions, both in their own national budgets and in the regular budgets of the relevant components of the United Nations system, to enable the international community to make a universal and concerted attack on the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

14. The discussion focused on identifying means of achieving better co-ordination of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system, making the best use of existing resources, avoiding any overlapping of activities between different elements of the system and ensuring complementarity of action; and, most importantly, drawing attention to the need for adequate resources to be provided to support this work in the future. It was clear that no new mandates were being sought. Under the various drug abuse control treaties, most recently the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and following the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control agreed at the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, many entities of the United Nations system already have drug abuse control mandates. ACC acknowledged that this work is being carried out by a number of United Nations bodies, that is, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, as well as by specialized agencies such as WHO, ILO and UNESCO.

15. Drug abuse control was one of the two topics considered at the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC held in New York in October 1989. There was a wide measure of agreement at the Joint Meetings on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the background paper prepared for the meetings by ACC. The report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC (E/1990/4) indicates that it was agreed that drug abuse control activities should reflect the increased importance attached to drug abuse control by Member States at both the national and international levels. It was recognized that the United Nations has a unique leading role in meeting the pressing requirement for a co-ordinated international response to drug abuse control in all its aspects. It was noted that, while mechanisms for co-ordination within the United Nations system already exist by means of the ad hoc inter-agency meetings, there was scope for them to be strengthened. The Joint Meetings affirmed the need to improve co-ordination in drug abuse control to achieve a balanced approach in addressing, inter alia, the following aspects:

(a) Prevention and reduction of demand;

(b) Control of supply;

(c) Suppression of illicit trafficking;

(d) Treatment and rehabilitation.

To that end it was agreed that the appropriate intergovernmental bodies should consider a system-wide plan of action for drug abuse control, prepared by ACC. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/141, requested ACC to present the system-wide plan to all Member States no later than 31 March 1990. Such a plan would aim at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions that might be taken by appropriate intergovernmental bodies, particularly at the special session of the General Assembly on drug abuse control to be held in February 1990.

16. It was further agreed that, while the level of resources was not the only consideration, there was a need both for optimal utilization of existing resources and for additional resources, including extrabudgetary resources. It was pointed out that organizations of the system should enhance the sharing of experiences at the regional and international levels and should improve the collection and dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations system in the area of drug abuse control and that increased efforts should be directed towards enhancing public awareness, education and mobilizing public support.

17. It was pointed out that further action would be required by organizations of the system to implement a number of decisions taken by ACC. This would include: (a) the formulation of more action-oriented programmes; (b) the systematic exchange of information on all activities to avoid conflict, maximize utilization of resources and, where possible, encourage joint programming; (c) the establishment of a clear focal point in relevant organizations; (d) research to identify links between drug abuse and rapid social change; (e) preventive audio-visual campaigns against drug abuse; (f) a bibliography of all relevant publications within the

United Nations system; and (g) the need for all funding institutions within the United Nations system to attend the inter-agency meetings on co-ordination in matters of international drug abuse control.

18. The ACC secretariat was requested to prepare a report on the implementation of these recommendations for submission to the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings.

D. Environment-related questions

19. The growing political awareness of the increasing importance of environmental issues will need to be translated into concrete and effective action by Member States and the United Nations system. Global environmental issues can most suitably be approached in a co-ordinated fashion within the United Nations system through the contributions of all organizations concerned.

20. ACC welcomed decision 15/1 of the Governing Council of UNEP, entitled "Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme", in which the essential role of UNEP as the central catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system was reaffirmed.

21. As to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ACC was of the view that the Conference should address the overall issues, as set out in relevant General Assembly resolutions, in such a manner as to lead to concrete measures. The Conference should lead to a strengthening of the capacities of the developing countries and the organizations of the United Nations system to carry out the consequent responsibilities and identify resources to do so.

22. In April 1989, ACC established an ad hoc task force at the executive head level, which would serve as an inter-agency mechanism for the system-wide preparations for the Conference (decision 1989/2). A meeting of the task force is expected to take place in 1990, following the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

23. The Governing Council of UNEP set out areas in which system-wide efforts in regard to the environment should be concentrated. These areas include protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change and global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, and transboundary air pollution; protection of the quality of freshwater resources and of ocean and coastal areas and resources; biological diversity, including protection of land resources by combating deforestation and desertification; environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals; and environmentally sound management of biotechnology. A final, broader area was the protection of human health conditions and the quality of life, especially the living and working environment of poor people, from degradation of the environment.

24. ACC was aware of the collaborative efforts that will be required and agreed that members should co-operate accordingly. Climate change is a topic of increasing international awareness, and ACC agreed at its first regular session of

1989 on possible areas for action by organizations of the United Nations system in that field (decision 1989/3). The Governing Council of UNEP and the Executive Council of WMO have passed decisions on the subject of climate change, and WMO, jointly with UNESCO and UNEP, is preparing for the second World Climate Conference, to be held at Geneva in November 1990, which, in addition to providing a broad review of the current state of the climate issue, will serve as a policy forum on this important problem. ACC noted, in particular, decisions and recommendations to begin preparations for negotiations on a framework convention on climate. ACC noted with satisfaction the work of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It welcomed the consideration of measures to increase the participation of developing countries in IPCC activities.

25. ACC welcomed the increased emphasis placed by the United Nations system on environmentally sound and sustainable development. ACC reiterated its view that the Designated Officials on Environmental Matters could be instrumental in keeping under review the progress made by the United Nations system towards sustainable development and in co-ordinating its appropriate efforts. ACC decided to work collectively in selected developing countries, in integrating environmental considerations in the process of social and economic development and planning. It expressed the hope that those exercises would ultimately lead to the design of methodologies and guidelines for integrating environmental and natural resources consideration in national development plans.

26. Costa Rica, Malaysia, Mali and Seychelles have been selected as cases for this effort. An inter-agency steering group to work with selected countries in planning for environmentally sound development has been established. The group held its first meeting in April 1989. The inter-agency project provides an agreed conceptual and practical framework to initiate action at the national level and for inter-agency co-operation in the project implementation.

27. A study has been carried out on the application of environmental guidelines to operational activities of the system. A report has been prepared by a consultant, and it will be considered by DOEM and CCSQ (OPS). Recommendations for further activities will then be discussed.

28. In the context of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, ACC agreed that the critical objectives for environment and development policies that follow from the need for environmentally sound and sustainable development must include creating a healthy, clean and safe environment, reviving growth and improving its quality, remedying the problems of poverty and the satisfaction of human needs through raising the standard of living and the quality of life, addressing the issue of population and of conserving and enhancing the resource base, and merging environment and economics in decision-making.

29. Two major new proposals were considered by ACC. A United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance was proposed by the Governing Council of UNEP, and an assessment is being carried out by UNEP. ACC attached particular importance to the presentation of a consolidated position of the United Nations system on this issue.

30. Secondly, as a result of a discussion during the second regular session of ACC, in October 1989, a study is being carried out on regularly issuing joint statements on the environment which would be authoritative statements by the executive heads of United Nations organizations and possibly selected non-governmental organizations. UNESCO is carrying out the study on behalf of interested organizations. The joint statement would be addressed primarily to heads of State and Government and would put forward policy advice based on rigorous assessment of available scientific knowledge and information.

31. On the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, ACC endorsed the recommendations proposed by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification (IAWGD). These include measures for better analytical and uniform reporting of activities of members to combat desertification and inter-agency co-operation in two or three countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). The first thematic joint programming exercise under IAWGD will focus on the important activity of assessment of desertification, bearing in mind the global assessment of desertification for 1992.

II. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

32. During 1989, the work of ACC, and its operational activities committee, CCSQ (OPS), increasingly reflected the unequivocal resolve of its members, expressed in its decision 1989/4 on the role and functioning of the United Nations development system in the 1990s, to continue to adapt individually and collectively to evolving circumstances. A significant part of the work programme mirrored the issues and concerns identified by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/196 and reviewed by Member States in the governing bodies of member organizations.

33. The specific issues addressed during the period under review are set out in the following paragraphs.

A. Goals and strategies for the 1990s

34. The General Assembly, in paragraph 33 of its resolution 41/171, called for the provision, in the context of the 1989 comprehensive triennial review, of a general framework of broad objectives for operational activities for development within the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197.

35. In the light of this requirement, CCSQ (OPS) reviewed the experience of its members in establishing and applying goals and strategies for operational activities, and considered the rationale for collaborative work in defining common thrusts and goals for the 1990s. Particular emphasis was placed on the human dimension of development and on long-term development objectives. There was general agreement that closer linkages should be sought between operational activities at the country, regional and global levels and the goals and strategies of international development strategies. It was, however, stressed that this would depend on the degree to which such goals and strategies were reflected in government priorities since these constitute the basis for country-level

collaboration. The implications of the international development strategy for the 1990s for operational activities would be further reviewed in the light of progress in elaborating the strategy.

B. Programming of the operational activities of the United Nations system

36. The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 42/196, specifically requested an assessment of the constraints on the use of the UNDP country programme and programming process as a frame of reference for the operational activities of the United Nations system, consideration of the nature, scope and feasibility of a wider, more effective process, and identification of the donor organizations and resources that such a process might take into account. These issues were considered by CCSQ (OPS) in the light of the study undertaken by an independent consultant engaged by UNDP, at the request of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The following conclusions and recommendations were reached:

(a) While the UNDP country programme had not proved generally practicable as a frame of reference for the United Nations system's varied programmes and activities, there was considerable value in the elaboration of a common frame of reference drawing on existing programmes and mechanisms, including the UNDP country programme itself, needs assessments, consultative groups and round-table meetings;

(b) To be fully effective, the programming of operational activities at the country level must be Government-led. The United Nations system itself should provide appropriate support, at the request of Governments;

(c) While the system's contribution in support of Governments' efforts is provided strictly in the overall framework of national plans and priorities, its value would be enhanced if it were provided in a more co-ordinated manner, clearly addressing the human dimension of development and focusing on specific short-term and long-term objectives;

(d) United Nations organizations, individually and collectively, should continue to provide technical support for the strengthening of national planning and programming capacities at the central, sectoral and local levels;

(e) A task force of officials directly concerned with country programming processes would examine possibilities for collaboration with regard to substance, process, form and procedures and report, through the core secretariat, to the Committee at its first regular session of 1990;

(f) With a view to enhancing the coherence of activities undertaken by individual organizations, it would be useful if, under the leadership of the Resident Co-ordinator, organizations of the United Nations system jointly prepared, in countries that consider it useful, a note on common themes and linkages. It would provide a succinct assessment of development trends, a summary of the Government's own medium-term and longer-term development objectives, assess the

continuing relevance of ongoing United Nations programmes and provide an outline of the broad themes - highlighting, as appropriate, potential linkages - that might provide a framework for future United Nations assistance;

(g) The value of the mid-term review mechanism for monitoring the continued relevance of programmes was recognized and cross-participation by organizations encouraged;

(h) Of critical importance to improved coherence is a fully participative approach in all stages of programming within the United Nations system, including such preparatory processes as round tables, consultative groups and needs assessments;

(i) Member organizations are encouraged to intensify reviews of their internal arrangements and orientations (including field staffing, data bases, country profiles etc.) as a necessary pre-condition for increased involvement in programming processes.

C. Enhancing the role and effectiveness of the resident co-ordinator system

37. The General Assembly, in paragraph 25 of its resolution 42/196, invited ACC to review the inter-agency agreements concerning resident co-ordinators. CCSQ (OPS) considered, and ACC agreed, that existing instructions, particularly those contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 34/213, provided an adequate basis for the exercise of the functions of Resident Co-ordinator. Nevertheless, they would benefit from reinterpretation and adaptation in the light of evolving circumstances. To this end it was decided:

(a) At the global level:

(i) To broaden the selection process of resident co-ordinators;

(ii) To emphasize the concept of a United Nations development team at the country level, by giving equal consideration to the background and experience of all field representatives of individual organizations and identifying common elements that could be included in their terms of reference;

(iii) To facilitate the exchange of senior and middle-level staff among organizations of the system;

(iv) To review and strengthen briefing and refresher training programmes for resident co-ordinators and other field representatives; and to prepare a United Nations system handbook for Governments and their development partners on the mandates and capacities of the system;

(v) To pursue action to identify the type of technical expertise and other support required to enable resident co-ordinators to fulfil their roles in different country circumstances;

(vi) To strengthen the staff resources at the disposal of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, drawing on staff of organizations of the system, to support resident co-ordinators in exercising their functions;

(vii) To consider areas in which a further decentralization by member organizations from their headquarters to the field could serve to enhance collaboration at the country level;

(viii) To adopt special measures in regard to the role of resident co-ordinators with regard to organizations without field representation;

(ix) To reiterate to their respective staff the policy of encouraging the sharing of common premises and services unless particular requirements or material conditions impose limitations on such sharing;

(b) At the country level, that resident co-ordinators:

(i) Be encouraged, together with the field representatives of organizations of the system, and in consultation with the host Governments, to review their roles in the light of the particular needs and circumstances of each country;

(ii) Be encouraged to establish inter-agency advisory groups focused around priority sectors or themes;

(iii) Be provided with pertinent information regarding operational activities; share with their partners in the Government and the system relevant information on government plans and priorities, the programmes, activities and resources of individual organizations and the programmes and policies of other multilateral and bilateral partners; and develop with their partners in the system appropriate information flow on developments related to technological and social changes, as well as country profiles;

(iv) Be given timely notice of all visits to the country by staff of the organizations of the system and be kept informed of the purposes and results of discussions at the country level and of the creation of field offices and the designation of field representatives;

(v) Elaborate, in consultation with their partners in the system, a programme of public information on development issues.

38. The above conclusions and recommendations are being transmitted to all field representatives of the organizations of the system by their respective executive authorities.

39. In addition, CCSQ (OPS) agreed that its members would further review internal arrangements and orientations, including the enhancement and decentralization of staff capacities, resources and authority to facilitate country-level co-ordination. The Committee will review the status of the implementation of the above measures in 1990-1991.

D. Support costs and future relationships

40. An ad hoc task force was established by CCSQ (OPS) at its second regular session of 1988. The purpose of the task force was to provide a forum for consultation between organizations of the system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/196, on the potential implications of the study on successor support cost arrangements being undertaken by an expert group established by the Governing Council of UNDP. The task force provided inputs to the expert group's consideration of those issues. At its second regular session of 1989, ACC adopted a statement on support costs (decision 1989/29).

E. Triennial comprehensive policy review report

41. The work of CCSQ (OPS) constituted the main forum for consultations between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and organizations of the system in the preparation of reports for the triennial review undertaken in 1989 by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Despite severe constraints of time and other resources, the conclusions and recommendations of CCSQ (OPS) on such issues as programming of the operational activities of the system and the role and effectiveness of the resident co-ordinator system were fully drawn upon in the formulation of the Director-General's own recommendations. In addition, a dialogue was maintained on other issues through the Committee and its core secretariat.

F. Simplification and harmonization of procedures

42. CCSQ (OPS) kept under review the ongoing efforts to simplify and harmonize the procedures of the organizations of the United Nations system. Its Chairman and Co-ordinator also met with the Chairman and senior staff of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to discuss prospects for the harmonization of project formulation procedures. Further action awaits the preparation by the Director-General of a report on the status of harmonization efforts and on areas requiring specific attention; this report will also take full account of the conclusions of a series of integrated country reviews, organized by the Director-General in July/August 1989, since it is generally agreed that simplification and harmonization efforts should be focused around the procedures of recipient Governments themselves.

G. Environmental guidelines

43. In collaboration with the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters, CCSQ (OPS) commissioned a consultancy report on environmental guidelines, with a view to identifying common principles, procedures and formats that could be used on a system-wide basis. The consultant's report will be reviewed by the Committee at its first regular session of 1990.

H. Women and development

44. Operational activities have an important role to play in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995. CCSQ (OPS) took note of the consolidated guidelines, which UNDP had prepared jointly with other member organizations of the Committee, to be used by field staff in incorporating in development projects and programmes issues of concern to women.

I. The evolving role of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and its secretariat

45. Following a review of the work of CCSQ (OPS), undertaken pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 42/196, CCSQ (OPS) has focused its attention on a limited number of priority items for in-depth consideration, while maintaining flexibility to enable it to treat other important issues as they arise.

46. As previously recognized, the effectiveness of what constitutes the only system-wide intersecretariat body dealing with substantive questions relating to the operational activities of the United Nations system is dependent on the commitment and priority attached to it by executive heads individually and collectively. Despite increasing constraints on their staff resources, there has been an increase in the level of attendance at recent formal sessions and a broader, more active participation in the work of the Committee by many members, including the smaller organizations of the system. The increasing sensitivity and responsiveness of member organizations to the issues and concerns identified by intergovernmental bodies, as reflected in the Committee's work in the period under review, has been the subject of favourable comment at recent sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

III. FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL ISSUES

A. Financial issues

1. Financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system

47. ACC instituted reviews of the financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system in 1987, when it foresaw that uncertainties about the timing and amount of the organizations' cash income could raise serious problems for the planning and implementation of their programme activities. Such reviews have taken place regularly since that time at the sessions of CCAQ on financial and budgetary questions. They provide an opportunity for the collective examination of the financial status and prospects of each of the organizations and for the discussion of relevant action.

48. The cash shortfalls are caused essentially by non-payment and delayed payment of assessed contributions. According to statistics compiled by CCAQ, amounts outstanding under these contributions reached a record level in 1989. In the system as a whole (excluding the international financial institutions, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), unpaid assessed contributions for that year alone amounted to over $1 billion, more than 51 per cent of the total due, while nearly $618 million - about 31 per cent of the total due for 1989 - remained unpaid for previous years.

49. Financial management measures taken to mitigate cash shortages, such as increases in working capital funds, extensions of borrowing authority and the establishment of reserve accounts for unpaid contributions, are by nature limited in their effects. The main means for dealing with the problem has thus had to be the curtailment of activities, with damaging consequences both for current programmes and for the continuing infrastructure of international intergovernmental co-operation.

50. In 1989, ACC considered that the proportions of the problem had become such that a warning was called for on the part of the organizations' executive heads. It accordingly adopted a statement setting out the main issues (decision 89/26). In that statement ACC noted that there was a trend towards increased delays in payment even among contributors that had maintained high standards in meeting their obligations, adding that under the financial regulations of a number of organizations deficits resulting from shortfalls in assessed income became a later charge for all contributors, including those that had paid their contributions promptly and in full.

51. ACC concluded its statement with the following words:

> "At the present time, the United Nations system is the scene of renewed and revitalized interest on the part of Member States. The plans, programmes and budgets developed to meet the priorities of Member States can be translated into effective action through the system only if they have solid financial support. The present financial difficulties of the United Nations system must, therefore, be resolved without delay."

2. Effects of currency instability

52. A long-standing further source of financial difficulties in the system has been the effects of currency instability. These effects have been particularly acute where organizations' budgets and assessments are denominated in one currency (generally the United States dollar) and a major part of their actual expenditure is in another currency (generally the currency of their headquarters country). In such cases depreciation of the budget currency can substantially reduce the purchasing power of the contributions received.

53. ACC has had the problem of currency instability under review since the inauguration of floating exchange rates in the early 1970s and first reported on it

to the General Assembly in 1973, when it suggested various possible measures to mitigate the unfavourable effects. Since then a forum for analysis and exchanges of ideas has been maintained in CCAQ (FB), which has kept continuing records of developments on an organization-by-organization basis.

54. The updating of data in 1989 confirmed that the strategies adopted had differed according to the circumstances of individual organizations. Those organizations whose expenditures were incurred principally in the currency of their headquarters country had either maintained or changed over to the practice of using that currency for budgetary purposes, while organizations that had two main currencies of expenditures - dollars and their headquarters currency - had introduced schemes under which assessed contributions were divided between the two. Others had established special facilities or accounts, financed as far as possible from income other than assessed contributions, for use in the event of unfavourable currency trends, or had introduced special budgetary provisions financed in the first instance through savings achieved elsewhere in the budget. There had been increasing use of forward purchases of currency requirements, taking advantage of the characteristics of the markets for the currencies used.

55. It could be concluded that, owing to such techniques of financial management, most regular budgets in the United Nations system were now or would soon be reasonably well protected against the effects of currency instability. However, a problem remained regarding the purchasing power of income received for the technical and administrative support of extrabudgetary activities. This problem was due for re-examination in the context of the study of successor arrangements for agency support costs which the Governing Council of UNDP had commissioned in 1988.

3. Productivity improvement

56. ACC has taken the view that in the current period of financial difficulties it is particularly important for the organizations of the system to pursue and intensify their efforts to achieve increased efficiency and reductions of costs in administrative operations. With this in view, CCAQ (FB) in 1988 inaugurated a series of studies of productivity improvement in specific areas. It intended that such studies, while taking account of existing practice, would focus on possibilities of innovation, which were to be examined in an open spirit and with due attention to the need to adapt administrative practices to rapidly changing conditions. The first study brought together a group of specialists in the field of travel, and a number of the recommendations made have since been implemented or are scheduled for implementation in different organizations.

57. In 1989, a second group of specialists examined the possibilities of productivity improvement in transport and removal arrangements. This study dealt with the organization of work (including increased use of computer processing), arrangements with external packing, forwarding and insurance firms and various other subjects (e.g., the possible payment of lump sums in lieu of statutory removal entitlements, the scope for increased use of containers and the feasibility of standard rates for certain types of shipments). Recommendations were formulated

on all of these matters, and collective follow-up on their implementation is scheduled for 1990.

58. A further area of investigation in 1989 was that of the savings, efficiencies and other advantages that might be achieved in the United Nations system through the closer co-ordination of procurement activities. It was observed that such co-ordination could, among other things, lead to large discounts based on a high volume of purchases, reductions in delivery times and improved possibilities of procurement from developing countries. It was agreed that the United Nations, UNICEF and UNDP should carry out a general review to establish the extent to which further co-operation in this field would be feasible, to assess its advantages through cost-benefit studies wherever possible, and to ascertain the modalities through which the advantages might be realized. Common arrangements worked out between these three organizations were to be open for participation by other organizations at an appropriate stage.

4. Internal controls

59. Following the recommendations of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, ACC initiated in 1986, through CCAQ (FB), consultations aimed at assisting the organizations in the prevention and detection of fraud. These consultations, which were pursued in 1989, have the purpose of keeping financial management up to date on the types of fraud encountered and on appropriate countermeasures. They are coupled with confidential interorganization exchanges of information on actual cases.

60. In accordance with the further recommendations of the Panel of External Auditors, the consultations have now been extended to control and security problems affecting computer systems. In this complex area, it is planned that CCAQ (FB) will collaborate with the Advisory Committee on [illegible]Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), which in 1989 established a techn[illegible]l panel to examine problems of computer security from the point of view of systems specialists. It will be the task of the technical panel to draw up guidelines on computer security which will be adapted to the circumstances of the organizations of the system. Internal auditors will be associated with this effort, as well as the organizations' financial managers.

B. Personnel and general administrative issues

1. The comprehensive review

61. ACC, through its Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (CCAQ (PER)), played a pivotal role in United Nations common system personnel issues in 1989 - the year in which the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) submitted its report on the comprehensive review of the conditions of employment of staff in the Professional and higher categories to the General Assembly. One aspect of the review - the possible revision of the remuneration structure - was not completed in 1989 but, in all other respects, ICSC made recommendations for significant revisions to the United Nations common system remuneration package. In large measure, these were accepted by the General Assembly.

62. The comprehensive review was discussed in considerable detail at three ACC sessions in 1989, including a special session in July devoted entirely to this matter. The position of ACC for some years had been that the concerns of management must be fully reflected in the comprehensive review. Already in 1987, ACC had deplored the erosion of the remuneration package for Professional and higher categories of staff which was hampering the ability of the executive heads to attract, retain and assign staff and thus to manage and deliver effectively the programmes and activities mandated by Member States. ACC and CCAQ (PER) had therefore pressed for such a review of the common system remuneration package in order also to get away from what they saw as patched up, opaque and complex conditions of service which were difficult to maintain. The Committee stressed that, to enable the organizations to meet their operational needs, the remuneration system had to be made both more responsive and easily understandable. It should also be recalled that, in order to assist ICSC, ACC had, in 1988, commissioned a study from a consulting firm specializing in international compensation systems. The study contained a number of innovative proposals which expanded the options ICSC was able to take into account in the course of the review and allowed for a "fresh look" to be given to the United Nations remuneration package.

63. In 1989, ACC declared that the present remuneration system had to be overhauled to become competitive with bilateral and multilateral aid agencies. It requested ICSC to give the closest attention to a number of features in a revised system. Each of the major concerns of ACC is described below, together with a short description of the final decision reached by the General Assembly in relation to each area of concern.

(a) An overall increase

64. ACC commented that:

> "The remuneration system must provide substantially improved levels of remuneration for all staff at all duty stations in terms of both base salary and the overall remuneration package, such increase starting with at least 5 per cent for everyone, with a mechanism of continuing yearly increases until the competitive level of such take-home pay is restored. The margin with the comparator civil service should be defined accordingly;

"Once common system remuneration had regained its competitive edge, regular monitoring will be essential to keep it from falling again to unacceptable levels."

65. The General Assembly agreed to an overall average increase of 5 per cent at the base of the system and for increases at all other duty stations equivalent in amount to those at the base of the system. Moreover, as a result of (a) linking the floor net salary level to that of the comparator, (b) endorsing the Commission's recommendation to consider periodic checks every five years to determine which is the highest paid civil service and (c) agreeing to a revised methodological approach for the calculation of the net margin between the United Nations remuneration and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service, the General Assembly also ensured that, to a certain extent, changes in the remuneration levels of the comparator civil service would be more fully and more quickly reflected in United Nations levels. There is no change in the definition of the margin itself, although greater flexibility in its operation has been re-established.

(b) Conditions of service in the field

66. ACC requested that:

"The current conditions of service in the field - in terms of recognizing both mobility and hardship - should be substantially improved, rationalized and simplified."

67. Significant improvements in the conditions of service in the field have been agreed upon by the General Assembly in accepting the package of proposals made by ICSC for streamlining the current provisions related to field service into two basic allowances - a hardship and mobility allowance and an assignment grant. Together with the higher floor remuneration level, also agreed upon by the General Assembly, these measures will make service in the field more attractive and also facilitate the reassignment of staff. The applicability of these measures to "experts" and those recruited for one or two years on a fixed-term basis will still need careful review in 1990. More work is also needed in connection with revising the remuneration structure itself; this study is also scheduled for completion in 1990.

(c) Floor/base salary level

68. ACC requested that "the floor remuneration level for the system should be higher".

69. The United Nations common system floor net salary level has been increased by the General Assembly by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (i.e., Washington, D.C.). This reference to the comparator service is particularly important as it would appear to imply that as and when the increases in net salary are made in Washington, consideration would have to be given by the General Assembly to increasing the United Nations common system base/floor scale to an appropriate level.

(d) Post adjustment system

70. ACC requested in this connection that:

"The measurement of cost-of-living relativities and adjustments should be simplified and streamlined as far as possible;

"The maintenance of the purchasing power of emoluments should be ensured vis-à-vis fluctuations in exchange rates."

71. A number of significant improvements to the post adjustment system have been agreed to by the General Assembly. Although these may not appear to be as significant as some other decisions relating to the comprehensive review, in the long run, the changes that are being introduced are expected to have a very beneficial effect on the operation of the post adjustment system. The elimination of regressivity from the system is just one such change; this measure will stabilize take-home pay against fluctuations in currency exchange; it will also further simplify the post adjustment system itself by removing the need for a separate scale of post adjustment multipliers as each multiplier will, from 1 July 1990, be equal to 1 per cent of the net base salary scale.

(e) Recognition of merit

72. ACC requested that:

"There should be greater recognition of merit in both monetary and non-monetary terms in order to enhance productivity."

73. The General Assembly endorsed the proposals of ICSC for non-monetary merit awards but was less enthusiastic about monetary awards; it expressed concern about the need first to get to grips with the organizations' performance evaluation systems to ensure their objectivity and transparency before pursuing monetary awards for merit.

(f) Remuneration structure

74. ACC also requested that:

"The remuneration structure should be easier to understand and more realistically reflect the real costs faced by staff at all locations, and avoid the complication of housing comparisons between duty stations."

75. As already indicated in paragraph 61 above, this aspect of the comprehensive review will only be completed in 1990. ICSC, for its part, has agreed to the principle of treating housing separately from the rest of the remuneration package in any revised remuneration structure. As ICSC was not able to gather sufficient data on the effects of such a change, no recommendation on the matter was, however, made to the General Assembly in 1989. The General Assembly took note of the views of the Commission with regard to the principle of treating housing separately from the rest of the remuneration package and urged the Commission to complete its

consideration of all issues related to the introduction of a revised remuneration structure in 1990.

Other improvements

76. The above elements reflect the reactions of the Commission and the General Assembly to the main requests of ACC for an improved remuneration package. There are other features in the revised remuneration package approved by the General Assembly which are of note. These include (a) improvements in the calculation of the commutation of unused annual leave, (b) the simplification of the scales of separation payments and (c) significant changes to the salary scale itself, which allow for its extension by three steps at grades P-4 and P-5, two steps at grades P-3, D-1 and D-2 and by one step at the P-2 grade level.

Overall results

77. When the study of the remuneration structure (referred to in para. 75 above) is completed and the transitional period during which the above-mentioned changes are introduced is over, it is anticipated that the United Nations remuneration package will be significantly improved and will be much more responsive to operational realities than in the recent past. It will also be a simpler system than at present, although, given the built-in complexities of United Nations common system service, it has to be acknowledged that absolute simplicity is a pipe dream.

2. Functioning of ICSC

78. For some time, ACC and CCAQ (PER) have expressed concern about the way in which ICSC has been functioning both from the standpoint of the effectiveness of the consultative role of ACC in the nomination of members of the Commission and equally of the effectiveness of the representation of ACC through CCAQ in affecting the decisions taken by ICSC in closed session. Both these matters have been the subject of review by CCAQ (PER) in 1989.

79. In summary, CCAQ (PER) concluded that the proposals for the selection of candidates for ICSC, which had been endorsed by ACC in 1982, remained valid. These provided, inter alia, that ACC should take the initiative in suggesting replacements for members whose terms of office are coming to an end. This would also help to ensure that there is an open consideration of qualified candidates for each vacancy, instead of the more or less automatic reappointment of outgoing members or replacements from the same country (desirable as this may be in some cases).

80. CCAQ (PER) was of the view that the organizations should try to ensure that, within the established regional framework, there was a competition for each Commission seat falling vacant. In this connection, the organizations could be instrumental in seeking out suitable candidates; it might also be appropriate for the governing bodies of the organizations to be involved at each step of the process.

81. The matter of the openness of ICSC decision-making sessions was considered in 1989 also in the context of staff participation in ICSC and particularly in the comprehensive review.

82. In response to requests by the organizations and the staff representatives, the Commission agreed that these representatives could attend the Commission's meetings at which substantive determinations were made in respect of decisions on the comprehensive review. The Commission also provided some guidelines to supplement - and clarify - its working methods and the nature of its executive or closed sessions.

83. These matters will be further reviewed in 1990 in the light of General Assembly resolution 44/198, which noted that the Commission's action, in response to earlier requests that it review its functioning, had thus far been limited to consideration of the format of its annual report and to making practical arrangements for the conduct of its work in open and closed sessions. The General Assembly therefore requested the Secretary-General, together with his colleagues in ACC and after consultations with the representatives of the staff, to review the functioning of the Commission and to submit a report on the matter, together with the views of the Commission, to the General Assembly in 1991.

3. Other matters

84. In addition to the extensive involvement of CCAQ (PER) in the comprehensive review, which has already been referred to above, the Committee has continued to develop its work in connection with field-related issues, post classification, arrangements for the protection of personnel and property, salary survey activities etc., which are referred to in more detail in the reports of CCAQ (PER) on its seventieth and seventy-first sessions.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

A. Monitoring of activities in specific areas of concern

85. During the year under review, ACC continued to monitor developments in a number of areas in which action by the United Nations system was required. Among the matters kept under review by ACC were activities of the organizations of the system related to international years, decades and anniversaries declared by the United Nations. The following two areas received particular attention:

(a) Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). In 1989, as has been the case since 1987, ACC was informed of developments regarding the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS. Of particular concern was the progress made with regard to concerted action to combat AIDS taken by the organizations of the system under the leadership of WHO and through bodies such as the Inter-Agency Group on AIDS and the United Nations Steering Committee on AIDS;

(b) International conference on nutrition. At its second regular session of 1989, ACC welcomed the joint initiative of FAO and WHO to convene an international conference on nutrition in late 1992 or early 1993 (decision 1989/25). The purpose of the conference is to focus world-wide attention on this important aspect of development. ACC believes that malnutrition and undernutrition, which affect millions of women, men and children, are major impediments to social and economic progress, and that the conference would be an important step towards increasing public awareness and obtaining national and international commitments to appropriate strategies and actions to ensure improved nutrition world wide. Agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations, including non-governmental organizations, will work in close co-operation with FAO and WHO in this important endeavour.

B. Enhancing the public image of the United Nations system

86. In April 1989, the Organizational Committee considered the question of enhancing the public image of the United Nations system. It had before it a paper on the subject prepared by the United Nations in pursuance of ACC decisions 1987/24 and 1988/28. The Committee requested that the paper be revised in the light of its discussions and further consultations. By its decision 1989/15, ACC decided that consideration of the item should be postponed to its second regular session of 1989.

87. In October 1989, the Organizational Committee considered the revised paper prepared by the United Nations. It was observed that the paper was realistic and pragmatic and reflected the diversity of approaches found in the United Nations system. The Committee, on behalf of ACC, endorsed the recommendations contained therein, including a number of concrete steps to be taken to promote awareness and understanding of the United Nations family of organizations. A revision of the terms of reference of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), aimed at making it a more effective body and at providing a more practical framework for joint action, was also recommended (decision 1989/30).

88. One of the recommendations approved by ACC calls for the identification of the human, financial, technological and material means of collective action in order to pool and make maximum use of scarce resources within the system available for information activities. Priority consideration is to be given in this context to the possibility of developing a modern system-wide audio-visual capacity in both production and distribution, electronic distribution technology and a methodology for films co-production, as well as to the general issue of funding information programmes, including the use of carefully arranged and controlled advertising and the co-financing of training or briefing in relation to specific priority themes for young journalists, particularly those from developing countries.

89. Another priority task will be the preparation of a United Nations system identity package, which would identify each member of the United Nations family both as an autonomous or semi-autonomous entity with distinct mandates and responsibilities, and as an integral part of the system, in order to promote global awareness and understanding of the United Nations family.

90. The revised terms of reference of JUNIC, which are an integral part of these recommendations, are intended to enlist increased interest and co-operation of a greater number of United Nations agencies and programmes on public information activities pertaining to issues of common concern. Under its revised mandate, the Committee will be responsible, inter alia, for enhancing modern information knowledge and skills development, practical experience sharing and shared activities on themes of inter-agency and/or system-wide interest, and for fostering efficient information services, including the shared use of facilities and resources, throughout the system. The Chairman of JUNIC will be appointed biennially by ACC upon the recommendation of JUNIC.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION IN 1989

1989/1 Preparation and elaboration of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

1989/2 Environment-related questions

1989/3 World climate change

1989/4 Role and functioning of the United Nations development system in the 1990s

1989/5 Co-ordination in matters of international drug abuse control

1989/6 Follow-up to the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

1989/7 Science and technology for development

1989/8 Comprehensive review of conditions of service of the Professional and higher categories of staff

1989/9 Special session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1989/10 Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77

1989/11 Nutrition in times of disaster

1989/12 Review of staffing requirements in the context of General Assembly resolution 41/213

1989/13 Jointly-financed activities

1989/14 Safety and security arrangements in the United Nations system

1989/15 Enhancing the public image of the United Nations system

1989/16 Register of Development Activities of the United Nations system

1989/17 Functioning and structure of the ACC machinery

1989/18 Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1989/19 Tribute to Mr. Francis Blanchard, Director-General of the International Labour Office

1989/20 Tribute to Mr. Jean Ripert, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

1989/21 Comprehensive review of conditions of service of the Professional and higher categories of staff

1989/22 Tribute to Mr. C. P. Srivastava, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization

1989/23 Tribute to Mr. Richard Butler, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union

1989/24 International co-operation in the field of the environment

1989/25 International conference on nutrition

1989/26 Current financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system

1989/27 Inter-agency activities undertaken in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1989/28 Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

1989/29 Support costs

1989/30 Enhancing the public image of the United Nations system

1989/31 Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1989/32 First regular session of 1990 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

Annex II

REPORTS, STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN 1989

Document symbol	Title or description
E/1989/18	Annual overview report of the Administative Committee on Co-ordination for 1988
E/1989/54/Add.1	Comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Contribution of the United Nations system to the preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage in Western Asia" (E/1989/54)
E/1989/72	The need to accelerate the international fight against drug abuse
E/1989/80	Development and international economic co-operation: preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade
E/1990/4	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

Annex III

MEETINGS CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION IN 1989

Dates	Venue	Title of the meeting
15-18 January	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (special session)
24-26 January	Geneva	Technical working group of the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives
11 February (Saturday)	Vienna	Ad hoc inter-agency meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug abuse control a/
15-17 February	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
22 February-3 March	New York (UNICEF hq.)	Sub-Committee on Nutrition (fifteenth session) and associated meetings b/
2-17 March	Vienna	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (seventieth session) c/
6-10 March	Copenhagen	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (seventieth session) d/
9-10 March	Geneva	Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy
13-16 March	Vienna (UNIDO hq.)	Task Force on Science and Technology for Development (tenth session)
28-31 March	New York	Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives (seventeenth session)
3-6 April	Geneva	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (first regular session)
10-11 April	Vienna	Thirteenth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on women e/
10-12 and 21 April	Geneva	Organizational Committee of ACC
19-21 April	Geneva	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (first regular session)

1-3 May	Geneva	Ad hoc inter-agency meeting on commodities
31 May-2 June	Vienna (UNIDO hq.)	Task Force on Rural Development (17th meeting)
19-23 June	Geneva	Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (twenty-third session)
29-30 June	Geneva	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (second special session)
3 and 5 July	Geneva	Organizational Committee of ACC
5 July	Geneva	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (special session)
24 July-4 August	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (seventy-first session) f/
4-6 September	Paris (UNESCO hq.)	Ad hoc inter-agency meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug abuse control
11-15 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (seventy-first session)
18-21 September	New York	Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives (eighteenth session)
18-21 September	Geneva	Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (fifth session)
19-20 September	Geneva	Ninth Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries
27-29 September	Geneva (ITU hq.)	Ad hoc inter-agency meeting on outer space activities
2-4 October	New York	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (second regular session) g/
9-11 October	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
17-18 October	New York	Twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC
19-20 October	New York	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (second regular session)

23-27 October	New York (UNDP hq.)	Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources (tenth session) h/
30 November-1 December	Vienna	Third ad hoc inter-agency meeting on system-wide co-ordination of policies and programmes in the field of aging
4-5 December	Vienna	Seventh meeting of the informal inter-agency technical group on youth
6-8 December	Vienna	Ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

Notes

a/ In conjunction with the thirty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 6-17 February 1989).

b/ The associated meetings were: Advisory Group on Nutrition (22-24 February); meeting of representatives of bilateral agencies (26 February); and Symposium on Women and Nutrition (27 February).

c/ In conjunction with the twenty-ninth session of the International Civil Service Commission (Vienna, 6-23 March 1989).

d/ The Organizational Committee of ACC, while recalling its previous decisions concerning the location of meetings, agreed to the venue of Copenhagen in the light of the cost savings that would accrue to the system as a result of the study to be undertaken by CCAQ (FB) in the area of procurement.

e/ Immediately after the thirty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Vienna, 29 March-7 April 1989).

f/ In conjunction with the thirtieth session of ICSC (New York, 31 July-18 August 1989).

g/ In conjunction with the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting.

h/ In conjunction with the seventeenth meeting of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Supply and Sanitation Decade.

Annex IV

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION IN 1989

ACC/1989/1	Programme of work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery for 1989
ACC/1989/2	Report of the special (1989) session of CCAQ (PER) (New York, 15-18 January 1989)
ACC/1989/3	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 15-17 February 1989)
ACC/1989/3/Add.1	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (Geneva, 10-12 and 21 April 1989)
ACC/1989/3/Add.2	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (Geneva, 3 and 5 July 1989)
ACC/1989/3/Add.3	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 9-11 and 20 October 1989)
ACC/1989/4	Report of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug abuse control (Vienna, 11 February 1989)
ACC/1989/5	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery for 1989, Organizational Committee (Geneva, 10-12 April 1989)
ACC/1989/5/Add.1	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery for 1989, Organizational Committee (Geneva, 3 July 1989)
ACC/1989/5/Add.2	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery for 1989, Organizational Committee (New York, 9-11 October 1989)
ACC/1989/6	Report of the seventieth session of CCAQ (PER) (Vienna, 2-17 March 1989)
ACC/1989/7	Report of the seventieth session of CCAQ (FB) (Copenhagen, 6-10 March 1989)
ACC/1989/8	Provisional annotated agenda, ACC, first regular session of 1989 (Geneva, 19-21 April 1989)
ACC/1989/9	Report of the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives on its seventeenth session (Geneva, 28-31 March 1989)

ACC/1989/10	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its first regular session of 1989 (Geneva, 3-6 April 1989)
ACC/1989/11	Provisional annotated agenda, ACC, special session of 1989 (Geneva, 5 July 1989)
ACC/1989/12	Report of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on commodities (Geneva, 1-3 May 1989)
ACC/1989/13	Report of the second special (1989) session of CCAQ (PER) (Geneva, 29-30 June 1989)
ACC/1989/14	Report of the seventy-first session of CCAQ (PER) (New York, 31 July-25 August 1989)
ACC/1989/15	Report of the seventy-first session of CCAQ (FB) (New York, 11-15 September 1989)
ACC/1989/16	Report of the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives on its eighteenth session (New York, 18-20 September 1989)
ACC/1989/17	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its second regular session of 1989 (New York, 2-4 October 1989)
ACC/1989/18	Report of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on security matters (Rome, 27-28 July 1989)
ACC/1989/19	Report of the ninth inter-agency consultation on the follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (Geneva, 19-20 September 1989)
ACC/1989/20	Provisional annotated agenda, ACC, second regular session of 1989 (New York, 19-20 October 1989)
ACC/1989/21	Report of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems on its fifth session (Geneva, 18-21 September 1989)

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ACC/1989/DEC/1-20	Decisions adopted by ACC at its first regular session of 1989
ACC/1989/DEC/21-23	Decisions adopted by ACC at its special session of 1989
ACC/1989/DEC/24-32	Decisions adopted by ACC at its second regular session of 1989

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CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989

Addendum

Summary of activities in 1989 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of the ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices

SUMMARY

The present addendum contains brief summaries of the activities carried out in 1989 by the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ). The activities of the ad hoc bodies that meet under the auspices of ACC are also described.

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List of abbreviations

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ACCIS	Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems
CCAQ(FB)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
CCSQ(OPS)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
CCSQ(PROG)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICIDH	International classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPF	Indicative planning figure
ISDS	International Serials Data System
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JUNIC	Joint United Nations Information Committee
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOV/CSDHA	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna
UNV	United Nations Volunteer programme
WHO	World Health Organization

I. TASK FORCE ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

1. During 1989, the work of the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives and its Technical Working Group focused on the inter-agency consultations on the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and the identification of economic and social indicators useful for monitoring progress under the strategy and for identifying emerging critical economic and social trends. In addition, the discussions reviewed research activities carried out in the United Nations system with a view to exchanging information and co-ordinating work programmes in the economic and social area.

2. At its seventeenth session, held at Geneva from 28 to 31 March 1989, the Task Force continued the process of inter-agency consultations on the preparation of a new international development strategy and, in particular, reviewed the ongoing work in the various parts of the system on trends and problems relating to the 1990s. At the request of ACC, the Task Force also reviewed a set of economic and social indicators that would lend themselves to monitoring development, especially in the context of the new international development strategy and the sectoral strategies on which it is expected to build, and in the context of early warning activities. The Task Force took note of the views that have emerged in various forums, including discussions among organizations of the United Nations system, and considered possible structures and elements for an analysis of development trends that might command a meaningful consensus among Governments and make sense to the people of the world. The report of the Task Force contains a summary outline of a possible strategy document reflecting the discussions of the Task Force. The outline was included in the report transmitted to ACC and submitted by ACC to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (ACC decision 1989/1).

3. Following an extensive review of possible economic and social indicators, the Task Force noted that further technical discussion on appropriate indicators to monitor development progress and the implementation of the strategy should continue once an intergovernmental consensus begins to emerge on specific objectives for the new strategy.

4. The state of preparations for the international development strategy for the 1990s was also the main focus of the eighteenth session of the Task Force, held in New York from 18 to 20 September 1989. The Task Force reviewed the discussions on the strategy that had taken place since its 17th meeting, both in the secretariats of the United Nations system and in the Ad Hoc Committee. It also discussed ways in which the organizations of the system might be helpful to the Ad Hoc Committee. At the request of the Organizational Committee of ACC, the Task Force also reviewed a draft of a background paper on the co-ordination aspects of the strategy, prepared by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to assist the Organizational Committee in identifying such aspects. In its discussions, the Task Force noted the need for the various organizations to strive for greater convergence and consistency among their approaches to development and to seek greater consistency among the goals of the different agencies. In addition to its main items of work, the Task Force also reviewed a draft of a comparative analysis by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, entitled

"Looking to the 1990s: development strategies and plans already adopted in the United Nations system", and revised a list of development indicators in a new international development strategy, which it included in its report to ACC.

Activities of the Technical Working Group

5. At its sixteenth session in 1988, the Task Force had requested that its Technical Working Group report on its work on social and economic indicators, including the results of a comparative analysis of the medium-term projections of various agencies and its assessment of ways of integrating social and environmental factors in economic modelling. The Technical Working Group, which held its fourteenth session at Geneva from 24 to 26 January 1989, focused on the technical problems entailed in assessing the prospects for the world economy during the 1990s, in particular as they relate to the preparation of the new international development strategy. The following three subjects were discussed by the Working Group: (a) a comparative analysis of medium-term and long-term economic and social projections prepared by the agencies; (b) the identification of economic and social indicators relevant for the early identification, analysis and monitoring of world economic and social developments; and (c) ways and means of integrating social and environmental factors into the analytical models used by member agencies. Matters of recurrent interest to researchers engaged in studying world economic and social trends, such as a review of the current work of agencies in modelling and the information systems and data bases used in analytical work, were also discussed.

II. TASK FORCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

6. The Task Force on Science and Technology for Development met in Vienna from 13 to 16 March 1989. Its work in 1989 focused primarily on enhancing co-ordination at the country level in science and technology and on inter-agency missions to Jordan and Nepal. (The first mission - to Thailand - took place in December 1988.) The purpose of the missions was to make a policy-oriented impact assessment of the activities of the United Nations system as a whole in science and technology in those countries in order to learn from past experience and to improve the quality and content of future activities. The missions were preceded by in-depth studies, undertaken by local consultants, which assembled comprehensive data on all externally funded - bilateral as well as multilateral - science and technology activities and, through case-studies, assessed the contribution of the United Nations system to the process of building endogenous scientific and technological capacities. The missions were undertaken against the backdrop of the growing concern of Member States that operational activities of the United Nations system need to be streamlined and more sharply focused on the endogenous development of developing countries and science and technology, in view of their system-wide scope and multidisciplinary character, and provide particularly suitable areas for emphasis.

7. While the findings and recommendations of the missions were specific to each country, certain broad areas for inter-agency attention have emerged. These include: (a) the need to build on the concept of endogenous capacity-building in

science and technology, that is, the intrinsic capacity to make reasonable and independent decisions to choose, apply, develop and assimilate technology in relation to demand-driven priorities, in the entire project cycle, in particular in their design, and, as part of the process, encourage national execution of science and technology projects; (b) the necessity of focusing the catalytic but relatively modest resources of the United Nations system, in particular the indicative planning figures (IPF), on a few carefully chosen endogenous capacity-building types of programmes, rather than on an accumulation of small projects; (c) improving the process of the selection of experts and moving towards short-term specialist consultancies; streamlining the procedures for the procurement of supplies; paying greater attention to the maintenance of equipment; and ensuring effective follow-up; (d) harmonizing the various programme cycles in the United Nations system in accordance with national development plans; (e) providing the necessary means to the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator to enable him or her to bring greater coherence to the work of the United Nations system in science and technology and to take the lead, in close co-operation with the Government, to induce closer co-operation and complementarity between the activities supported by bilateral and multilateral donors; and (f) the finding that co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system can only be effective and optimal if the host country co-ordinates its efforts and has clear priorities integrated into national plans.

8. Based on the experience gained from the three missions, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Task Force intend to review the methodologies and modalities with a view to improving them in future missions. Furthermore, it is also proposed that the inter-agency missions be made an integral component of the pilot studies on endogenous capacity-building, an initiative launched by the Task Force and being undertaken by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, in order to optimize resources and make the outcome of the missions more useful to the countries concerned.

III. TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

9. The 17th meeting of the Task Force on Rural Development was held at Vienna from 31 May to 2 June 1989. Some 19 organs, organizations and the bodies of the United Nations attended the meeting.

10. The Task Force encouraged the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to take the initiative in forming a working group composed of members of the Task Force that are interested in exploring ways of integrating industrial, agricultural and rural development with a view to creating opportunities for non-farm employment, improving and developing infrastructure in the rural areas and enhancing rural development in general.

11. Members of the Task Force were invited by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to participate and collaborate in the preparation of the third progress report on agrarian reform and rural development as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1991 and the Economic and Social Council

in 1992. Organizations were informed of the proposed inter-agency policy review missions that are planned and were invited to participate.

12. The Task Force also reviewed the report on the evaluation of rural development activities of the United Nations system in three African least developed countries, which was prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit. It was noted that the substance and recommendations of the report coincided with the current views and preoccupations of the members of the Task Force.

13. The Task Force was informed about the progress made in the preparation of a study on the impact of macro-economic policies on the rural poor, which is being undertaken as a Task Force activity by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The study aims at developing a simple methodology which countries could apply using limited resources to analyse the impact of macro-economic policies on the rural poor. A second phase is foreseen in which the various policy instruments identified and the related indicators would be tested and refined.

14. The Task Force Panel on People's Participation agreed to focus its future activities on (a) conceptual development; (b) policy orientation; (c) work on instruments of participation promotion; and (d) the interrelationship between technical co-operation and people's participation and the integration of participatory approaches in technical co-operation and other programmes.

15. The Task Force Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation discussed the application of the socio-economic indicators developed by FAO for monitoring progress in agrarian reform and rural development. The Panel also discussed monitoring and evaluation of the effects of structural adjustment programmes and environmental changes on project beneficiaries, as well as methodologies for crop forecasting and crop production estimates within a management information system for food production.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

16. The Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities held its twenty-third session at Geneva from 19 to 23 June 1989. Twenty-eight organizations and bodies participated. All of the regional commissions participated, reflecting the importance of the regional aspects of international statistical work and the need to co-ordinate and integrate that element into overall statistical work. The Sub-Committee identified three issues of major importance and brought those issues to the attention of ACC.

17. The first issue concerned the co-ordination of ad hoc statistical inquiries to countries from non-statistical units of international organizations. Most organizations have instituted procedures requiring that questionnaires and other requests to Member States for statistical data must be cleared by the statistics division of the organization, or a committee that includes representation from the statistics division, before they are sent to Member States. Several organizations reported reviewing various requests through these new procedures, but recognized that they could not be certain that compliance had been complete. Although the

results achieved to date are encouraging, some agencies still have certain issues to resolve in developing suitable co-ordination mechanisms.

18. Secondly, the Sub-Committee undertook an initial discussion of an initiative developed by a working group of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat on monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s. The Sub-Committee agreed with the need for such monitoring, welcomed the approach which made provision for regional inputs and for assistance to countries and recognized the importance of co-ordination. The programme will enhance the existing monitoring activities by attempting to ensure that data on quantified targets agreed on by Member States would be available for national and international use in a cost-effective manner. As such, it will provide a framework to bring together the efforts of several organizations concerned with monitoring the social goals of national and international development efforts. Support for the monitoring initiative was expressed by a number of donor agencies, including UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, and by most specialized agencies and regional commissions. The Sub-Committee took note of a number of questions raised about the programme, as well as the reservations expressed by one agency. Since the Sub-Committee meeting, the initiative has been further developed. The Sub-Committee will consider this matter again at its twenty-fourth session in 1990.

19. The third issue brought to the attention of ACC was the view of the Sub-Committee that its report should be brought to the attention of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ(OPS)) in addition to the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ(PROG)), as is the case at the present time, in view of the high degree of interorganizational collaboration that is undertaken in operational matters relating to statistics and statistical development. The Organizational Committee agreed with this view and decided that the report should be brought to the attention of CCSQ(OPS).

20. The Sub-Committee took steps to maintain and improve the co-ordination of international statistical activities in a large number of other statistical areas.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

21. The Sub-Committee on Nutrition held its fifteenth session in New York from 27 February to 3 March 1989. The session included a symposium on women and nutrition. Issues related to women and nutrition will now regularly be on the Sub-Committee agenda. A publication based on the symposium will be issued and data will be compiled on women's nutritional status. An item entitled "Women and household food security: coping with economic deterioration" is included in the agenda for the sixteenth session.

22. As a result of a recommendation made at the fifteenth session, ACC adopted a statement concerning a proposed international conference on nutrition (ACC decision 1989/25). ACC invited its members and other concerned organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to work in close co-operation with FAO and the

World Health Organization (WHO), as initiators of the conference, in this important endeavour, using the mechanism of the Sub-Committee whenever appropriate. The preparation for the conference will be a major agenda item at the sixteenth session.

23. The Sub-Committee regularly reports on developments in the world nutrition situation. A report on recent trends in 33 countries, entitled "Update on the nutrition situation" (ACC/SCN, 1989), was issued in early 1989 and discussed at the fifteenth session. The results at the country level confirmed the earlier findings at the inter-country level, as noted in the first report on the world nutrition situation (ACC/SCN, 1987), which essentially indicate a deterioration in many countries in Africa, a static situation in much of Latin America and some improvement in Asia. Moreover, it was now possible to distinguish countries that were, for example, of high prevalence and deteriorating, from those of lower prevalence and improving. Funding constraints have limited work in this important area during 1989. Future activities will depend on securing additional funding and discussions on that issue are continuing. A second part of the mandate of the Sub-Committee concerns assessing the flows of external resources relevant to nutrition. In 1989 this was done for United Nations organizations and development banks, and data for bilateral aid flows have been secured from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The estimates for United Nations flows depended upon the data base supplied by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). Results will be available for the sixteenth session, including data on multilateral and bilateral resources. The data base, which includes all projects active in 1987 sorted by relevance to nutrition, will be available and, indeed, may be of use in relation to other development topics. A third aspect of the mandate concerns nutrition policies; preparations are under way for a meeting of an ad hoc group in 1990 on this subject and background material has been prepared.

24. Inter-agency programmes on food and nutritional surveillance, and for combating micronutrient deficiencies, were facilitated during the year. Projects supporting nutritional surveillance were funded and began operation, implemented by FAO, UNICEF and/or WHO, in a number of countries, and others were being developed. Promoting programmes for the control of iodine deficiency diseases, in which the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders plays a leading role, is co-ordinated at the annual meetings of the Working Group on Iodine Deficiency Disorders, held just before the Sub-Committee session. A similar group on the control of vitamin A deficiency will meet for the first time just prior to the sixteenth session.

25. The Sub-Committee organized a workshop entitled "Managing successful nutrition programmes" at the International Congress of Nutrition, held at Seoul in August 1989. Some 16 large-scale programmes were used to illustrate and draw lessons on management and operational issues. A publication based on the workshop is in preparation. It was suggested that this type of review should become a regular feature of the Congress, which is held every four years. The statement of the Sub-Committee concerning the significance of small body size in populations was drawn to the attention of United Nations organizations and other interested parties by the Organizational Committee, acting on behalf of ACC (ACC/1989/3/Add. 1,

annex III). The statement stressed that restrained growth in populations is not innocuous but "explicit evidence for a generalized public health problem calling for policies and programmes designed to alleviate social and economic deprivations, in addition to direct public health interventions". The Sub-Committee held a workshop on the uses of anthropometry, which included recommendations on the use and interpretation of those commonly available measures at the individual and population levels. A forthcoming publication, entitled "Malnutrition and infection", includes operational guidelines agreed to by concerned agencies and recent knowledge on the malnutrition/infection complex.

26. In September 1988 the Sub-Committee helped to organize a conference on nutrition in times of disaster. The statement issued as a result of that conference was approved by ACC (decision 1989/11) and subsequently noted by the Economic and Social Council. The Sub-Committee maintained contact with concerned United Nations organizations to explore means of establishing a mechanism to recommend action and to monitor developments in accordance with that statement. The Sub-Committee published two further issues of its newsletter, "SCN News", to some 3,000 people, mostly in developing countries; the newsletter is distributed by Sub-Committee member organizations and by direct mailing.

27. The symposium to be held at the sixteenth session will be entitled "Nutrition and school performance".

VI. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

28. ACCIS held its fifth session at Geneva from 18 to 21 September 1989. Four new technical panels and working groups were established. Preliminary work has been done to prepare their work programmes for presentation to the ACCIS Steering Committee meeting in February 1990. The new technical panels and working groups include the following:

(a) Technical Panel on the United Nations Telecommunications Network. At the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at Nice in 1989, it was decided that the United Nations telecommunications network may carry the traffic of the specialized agencies on a voluntary basis (ITU resolution COM8/1). ACCIS had assisted the United Nations effort to achieve that decision by contributing to the preparation of the supporting documentation. The technical panel was subsequently established to advise and assist the United Nations in the discharge of its mandate to enhance the United Nations telecommunication network to serve the United Nations system;

(b) Technical Panel on Computer Security. With the encouragement of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ(FB)) and in recognition of the increasing importance of computer security, a technical panel was created to study possible guidelines that could be used by the organizations to improve the security of their computerized systems;

(c) Working Group on Electronic Records Management. In order to keep abreast of the technological developments in the field of electronic records management, a

working group was created to follow up on the work completed by the Technical Panel on Electronic Records Management;

(d) Working Group on Data Base Access. The Working Group was established in response to the ongoing interest of organizations in the issues involved regarding the dissemination of data in machine-readable form.

29. ACCIS continued to provide advice on information systems and computerized data bases as requested by United Nations organizations and Member States.

30. Liaison was maintained with the International Centre in Paris on behalf of the United Nations organizations with regard to the registration of United Nations serial publications in the International Serials Data System (ISDS) data base.

31. In fulfilling its objective to facilitate access by Member States to United Nations system information, ACCIS developed a number of products:

(a) In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/71 and General Assembly resolution 37/226 to produce a register of development activities, ACCIS compiled a data base from data submitted by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). From it, ACCIS published in early 1989 the first edition of the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System. Data for the second edition were prepared for publication in early 1990;

(b) Data have been compiled and edited in preparation for the new edition of the Directory of United Nations Data Bases and Information Systems;

(c) Data have been prepared for the publication of the ACCIS Guide to United Nations Information Sources on Trade and Development Finance;

(d) The ACCIS Newsletter is published six times a year.

32. To promote improvement in the information infrastructure of the United Nations system, the work of ACCIS included the following activities:

(a) The Technical Panel on Electronic Records Management successfully completed its mandate to produce a study and guidelines to be consulted by the organizations of the United Nations system in developing and implementing their policies relating to the management of electronic records. The resulting report has been prepared for publication and will be available in early 1990;

(b) An edited version of the final report of the ACCIS Technical Panel on Data Base Access, entitled Providing Access to the United Nations Data Base: A Guide for United Nations Data Base Producers, was published in early 1989.

VII. INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATION ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

33. The ninth inter-agency consultation was convened at Geneva on 19 and 20 September 1989 by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 42/177 and paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 43/186. The participants reviewed the ongoing preparatory process for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1990 and emphasized the importance of ensuring the necessary complementarity between that process and the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as the preparations for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The participants commented on the statement by the Chairman of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries (Donor/Recipient Meeting), held at Geneva from 22 to 31 May 1989, and indicated further issues and specific proposals to be included in the draft programme of action for the 1990s. It was noted that some of the contributions already submitted by United Nations agencies to the Donor/Recipient Meeting had contained substantive analysis as well as proposals for the 1990s, while others had focused on ongoing co-operation activities with the least developed countries. It was observed that, in updating those submissions or preparing supplementary contributions, the following elements might be included: (a) an analytical review of the situation of the least developed countries in a given sector or region; (b) suggestions for sectoral or regional strategies or approaches; (c) an indication of agencies' programmes in favour of the least developed countries and how they have adapted the modalities of their co-operation with those countries; and (d) agencies' participation in resource mobilization for the least developed countries and in monitoring of sectoral and regional developments. It was also noted that it would be useful to undertake further analytical work on some cross-sectoral issues, which would require co-operation between agencies. The areas mentioned include, inter alia, the following: macro-economic policies; population issues; long-term social objectives and programmes; environment and natural disasters; food and agriculture; and trade issues.

VIII. INTER-AGENCY GROUP ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

34. The Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy met at Geneva on 9 and 10 March 1989. It discussed the co-ordination of activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy undertaken by the entities of the United Nations system, preparation for the fifth session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and related issues.

35. The Group discussed the follow-up to the Casel Gandolfo Colloquium of High Level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and agreed on the need to facilitate the selection of centres of excellence which would form a network on new and renewable sources of energy. The Group agreed that the entities within the United Nations system would co-operate in the relevant activities regarding that matter.

36. The Group analysed the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its fourth session and identified specific decisions requiring particular attention by each entity. In particular, it was agreed that each entity would provide the required information on its activities on the selected themes for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session, namely, the contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to integrated rural development; direct solar-to-electricity conversion; and utilization of agricultural residues to urban waste for energy production. Such information would be used to prepare reports of the Secretary-General, as requested by the Committee.

37. It was also agreed that each entity would provide information on projects it was currently undertaking in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and the extent of the implementation of such projects; each entity would also provide, as appropriate, information on new project proposals.

38. The Group stressed the need to view new and renewable sources of energy in relation to environment and sustainable development and agreed that women's needs should be taken into account and their full participation assured in the planning and implementation of new and renewable sources of energy. The Group agreed to prepare a draft document addressing environmental issues and implications associated with the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy. The paper would be included as an official document for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session.

39. The Group also discussed ways to improve its functioning and enhance the effectiveness of its meetings. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 26-27 March 1990.

IX. INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES

40. The ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources held its tenth session in New York from 25 to 27 October 1989, immediately following the 17th meeting of the Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

41. The main item for discussion by the Group was the question of the preparation of a strategy for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, to be considered by the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session in the spring of 1991. A panel of experts met at Challes Les Eaux, France, in March 1989. The panel, which was hosted by WHO and financed by UNDP, made a number of recommendations concerning the main issues to be emphasized in the preparation

of such a strategy. Following that meeting, UNDP approved a project designed to carry out in 1990 regional assessments of progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

42. At its tenth session, the Intersecretariat Group reviewed a proposal by FAO for the formulation of an action programme for water and sustainable agricultural development in the 1990s as part of the strategy. The programme will be formulated in consultation with other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as external support agencies, following regional assessments of progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan with regard to the use of water for agriculture as part of the aforementioned UNDP project. Similar assessments will be carried out with regard to the environmental aspects of water resources development, in co-operation with WHO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations involved; water resources assessment, in co-operation with WHO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and water resources management, with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the regional commissions acting as lead agencies.

43. The regional assessments will constitute the basis for the formulation of action proposals for the implementation by Governments of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s at the national, regional and global levels, and by the organizations of the United Nations system and other regional and international organizations.

44. The Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade reviewed a preliminary draft of a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session assessing the results of the Decade and providing recommendations for continued action in the 1990s.

X. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

45. The Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities met at Geneva from 27 to 29 September 1989. Representatives of participating organizations noted the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and considered current activities and plans for the coming biennium. The Meeting also held an in-depth review of the co-operation of organizations of the United Nations system in remote sensing for the benefit of developing countries, including plans to promote the harmonization and dissemination of information and to assist in the establishment of regional geographic information systems. In addition, the Meeting considered and approved the programmes contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 1990, 1991 and future years" (A/AC.105/444), to be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twenty-seventh session in February 1990.

46. The report contains the programmes of United Nations bodies and international organizations that are active in the field of outer space. The programmes are

presented in an integrated form outlining planned activities in the areas of application rather than in the individual programmes of organizations. Activities carried out jointly by the organizations concerned through co-operative programmes are highlighted, as well as those carried out separately within their respective areas of competence. The report consists of two sections. The first section presents an overview of all planned activities and programmes, including a description of remote-sensing applications, space communications, meteorology, international civil aviation and maritime communications, as well as expert services and fellowships in those disciplines. The second section of the report outlines in detail all of the activities and programmes, which are organized in subheadings of education and training, fellowships, training workshops and seminars; expert services and survey missions for identifying specific areas of application relevant to the countries or regions concerned; dissemination of information on the status of technology; and regulation of the use of the geostationary satellite orbit.

47. Also, at the Meeting, representatives of participating organizations noted that, at its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly would adopt a resolution, as recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, endorsing the designation of 1992 as International Space Year. Preliminary discussions were held on the matter. Representatives agreed to discuss the matter in greater detail at the 1990 Inter-Agency Meeting and to adopt a joint plan for implementing programmes for the Year.

XI. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON COMMODITIES

48. Pursuant to ACC decision 1988/6, a meeting of experts of the organizations of the United Nations system was convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD at Geneva from 1 to 3 May 1989 to discuss the situation and prospects with regard to commodities and related policy aspects. In that context, the experts identified the main economic and social problem areas with implications for agencies' policies and programmes. The following policy aspects were highlighted in the discussions: (a) the need to improve the supply/demand balance for many commodities through appropriate action on both sides of the market; (b) the need to take action to reduce instabilities in commodity export earnings and prices in international trade in commodities; (c) the need to ensure that prices used in analyses and forecasts are representative of the prices actually used in trade in individual commodities; (d) the need to promote conditions supportive of growth and diversification in developing countries; (e) the need for action with respect to the high levels of protection afforded to agricultural, tropical and natural resource-based products in their primary and processed forms, as well as against imports of non-primary products; (f) the need for expanded financial flows to countries with poor export earning prospects, in order to facilitate their diversification efforts; (g) the need for international action to reduce the vulnerability of the rural and urban poor and to improve working conditions; and (h) the need to expand technical co-operation activities to support human resources development.

49. A number of suggestions were made for enhancing collaboration among the agencies whose activities have a bearing on commodities. These included: (a) more

extensive use of ad hoc bilateral inter-agency meetings on specialized aspects of the commodity problem; (b) increased exchange of information and co-operation in research projects; (c) more extensive use of bilateral consultations in the preparation, execution and evaluation of commodity-related technical co-operation projects; and (d) more active participation by agencies in meetings of one another's intergovernmental bodies.

XII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON WOMEN

50. The main purpose of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, held on 10 April 1989 at Vienna, was to encourage and co-ordinate joint action to support and enhance the work of the intergovernmental bodies concerned with women's issues, namely, the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly in operational activities.

51. The Meeting discussed the scope and content of the priority themes for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The interrelationship of the themes was emphasized and it was agreed that the positive contributions of women should be stressed, and not only the evident negative situations. Three recommendations were made on the format and preparation of the reports on the priority themes. For the equality theme (equality in political participation and decision-making), it was recommended that the effects and consequences of the increased participation of women in politics be studied. For the development priority theme (negative effects of the international economic situation), it was observed that emphasis should be placed on the ongoing issues raised by the international economic situation and their negative effects on developing countries. Particular attention should be paid to the role of women in alleviating the negative social effects of the economic crisis and the positive changes and opportunities for women that may have resulted from the economic difficulties of the previous two decades. Concerning the priority theme on peace (women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation and threats to peace), it was recommended that no specific conflict situation be identified. The report should deal with the legal aspects of protection and relate to the political and economic factors in conflicts. It was considered important to stress women as a positive force rather than as victims of negative situations.

52. The Meeting also made recommendations on the preparation of the report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to be submitted to the General Assembly. The participating agencies discussed their contributions to the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies which was being undertaken and the results of which would be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session.

53. The Meeting also discussed the improvement of system-wide co-operation. The United Nations Development Programme had prepared a document entitled "Women in development: sectoral guidelines", which was considered by the Meeting. It was agreed that inputs from other agencies would be incorporated in the document. The Meeting agreed to continue work on that aspect of joint planning.

XIII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON YOUTH

54. The 7th meeting of the informal inter-agency technical working group on youth was held at Vienna on 4 and 5 December 1989. The group is composed of FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO, UNICEF, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV/CSDHA), the United Nations Volunteer programme (UNV) and WHO.

55. Its agenda included (a) review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-up in the Field of Youth; (b) results of the Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes (Bangkok, 2-5 November 1989); (c) ways and means of strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms for youth; (d) co-operation with non-governmental organizations for the development of youth activities at the field level; and (e) discussions on tentative proposals for possible inter-agency co-operation.

56. The working group adopted eight recommendations and agreed on the agenda for its 8th meeting.

57. It was decided that the 8th meeting of the working group should be held immediately prior to the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development, in March 1991. It was further decided that an interim meeting of the working group could also be held to coincide with the UNV Consultative Meeting at Geneva in September 1990 to consider joint projects involving UNV. Members of the inter-agency working group would be invited to attend the UNV Consultative Meeting.

XIV. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON DISABLED PERSONS

58. The 7th ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons was held at Vienna from 6 to 8 December 1989. The following issues were discussed:

(a) Employment and social security;

(b) Development and use of statistics on disabled persons and adaptation of the international classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps (ICIDH);

(c) Equal employment opportunities for disabled persons in the United Nations.

59. The meeting also served as a preparatory phase for the Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Ways of Marking the End of the Decade, scheduled to be held at Helsinki from 7 to 11 May 1990, and included discussions on the second round of monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

60. The following recommendations were made during the meeting:

(a) The list of national disability committees should be finalized by CSDHA and circulated to all United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for wider links and exchange;

(b) The issue of rehabilitation and social security systems should be a priority item for the remainder of the Decade. It deserves a global review, which could be undertaken by an expert group meeting. UNOV/CSDHA and ILO were requested to consider the possibility of convening such a meeting. Also, appropriate information on employment and social security should be prepared and disseminated;

(c) WHO should continue with the revision of the international classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps, with special attention to mental health and mental handicaps and the importance of environmental issues. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat should continue the development and updating of the United Nations disability statistics data base (DISTAT) and the dissemination of data;

(d) The format for the second round of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, scheduled for 1992, should not only aim at measuring progress but should also set the tone for the continued implementation of the World Programme of Action, and thus be both realistic and future-oriented. The involvement of United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations will be imperative in the exercise.

61. The meeting agreed that the Decade should conclude with a strong positive assessment of the Decade and prepare for the continuation of planning and implementing the strategies of the World Programme of Action beyond 1992. It was proposed that UNOV/CSDHA compile compendiums containing the successful projects and national practices of Member States. It was strongly recommended that a unique system-wide publication be issued on the Decade's accomplishments to mark the end of the decade, with joint collaboration and funding from the agencies.

62. The meeting took note with appreciation of the adoption of the affirmative action plan to encourage the employment of disabled persons. A progress report containing information on the number of disabled persons employed and other relevant data should be prepared by United Nations organizations and submitted to the 8th inter-agency meeting. United Nations bodies and international organizations should implement the action plan and establish models for equal treatment and opportunities for employment of disabled persons.

XV. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON AGING

63. The 3rd ad hoc inter-agency meeting on aging was held at Vienna on 30 November and 1 December 1989. Its agenda included the following items: a review of current activities of concerned organizations and bodies in the field; implications of the results of the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging; and follow-up to the action taken by ACC regarding the system-wide approach to the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging. That approach was seen as a precursor for a system-wide medium-term plan on aging.

64. The meeting also addressed itself to future inter-agency co-operation in the context of the preparation of the report on the world aging situation, the

elaboration of a system-wide medium-term plan on aging and the 1992 programme for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Plan of Action on Aging, and made the following recommendations to ACC:

(a) With reference to the review of the world aging situation in 1991, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/96, the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system should provide UNOV/CSDHA with contributions by June 1990 to ensure that the conceptual and organizational developments in their areas of competence are incorporated in the study;

(b) With reference to the detailed global programme of activities for 1992 and beyond, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/67, the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies should submit an outline of their proposed activities to UNOV/CSDHA by May 1990 for incorporation in the programme;

(c) In connection with the 1992 survey for the third quadrennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, UNOV/CSDHA, together with the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, should initiate the preparation of a global strategy with targets, indicators and a timetable, for translating the Plan of Action into concrete programmes;

(d) With reference to the system-wide approach to the implementation of the Plan of Action, which has been incorporated into the medium-term plan of UNOV/CSDHA for the period 1992-1997, the next inter-agency meeting should explore concepts and organizational measures for a United Nations system-wide medium-term plan on aging on the basis of contributions received from the concerned specialized agencies and United Nations bodies;

(e) In view of the importance of public information activities in raising awareness concerning the question of aging, the Department of Public Information should explore, through the Joint United Nations Information Committee, inter-agency public information projects on aging;

(f) In order to strengthen the existing co-ordination mechanism, a two-day inter-agency meeting should be convened immediately following the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development, to be held at Vienna in March 1991.

XVI. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

65. The ad hoc inter-agency working group on demographic estimates and projections works to assure that all bodies in the United Nations system use comparable sets of population data in their respective work. The common basis is the set of data published every two years by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat in World Population Prospects. The Population Division is currently working on the 1990 revision. A central activity of the sixteenth session of the

Group, which will meet in New York from 6 to 8 June 1990, will be to co-ordinate the 1990 and 1992 revisions so that inputs from the agencies and the commissions can be integrated into the revisions. Of particular importance is the preparation of the next issue of World Demographic Estimates and Projections, a joint publication which brings together the work of the United Nations Secretariat, ILO, FAO and UNESCO.

66. The issues to be addressed at the sixteenth session, in 1990, include the consistency of the various sets of data produced in the United Nations system, such as estimates and projections of agricultural populations by FAO and of rural populations by the Population Division; the proportion of males in agriculture as projected by FAO and ILO; the population data used by the United Nations Secretariat and by UNESCO; the population data and the estimates of infant mortality and life expectancy provided by the United Nations system and by Governments; estimates and projections of economic activity rates by ILO and of school enrolment ratios by UNESCO.